

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)
Claim 2 (canceled)
Claim 3 (canceled)
Claim 4 (canceled)
Claim 5 (canceled)
Claim 6 (canceled)
Claim 7 (canceled)
Claim 8 (canceled)
Claim 9 (canceled)
Claim 10 (canceled)
Claim 11 (canceled)
Claim 12 (canceled)
Claim 13 (canceled)
Claim 14 (canceled)
Claim 15 (canceled)
Claim 16 (canceled)
Claim 17 (canceled)
Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (canceled)

21. (New) An apparatus comprising a master unit and one or more replacement units which connect to the master unit so as to facilitate operation of said apparatus, the apparatus being provided with a verification means to determine the authenticity and/or the correct connection of the replacement unit, wherein if the replacement unit is not found to be authentic, or is incorrectly connected to the master unit, the operation of the apparatus is modified, characterized in that the verification means comprises:

- i) a remotely detectable tag provided on, or incorporated in, the replacement unit; and
- ii) an interrogation means provided in the master unit for interrogating the replacement unit to determine the authenticity of that unit and/or determine if the replacement unit is correctly connected to the master unit, as indicated by the response of the remotely detectable tag.

22. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the interrogation means comprises:

- i) a magnetic field generating means for generating a magnetic field in the region where the replacement unit will be connected; and
- ii) a means for detecting the response of the tag to said magnetic field.

23. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the remotely detectable tag comprises one or more pieces of magnetic material.

24. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein the magnetic material comprises low coercivity, high permeability magnetic material.

25. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the tag comprises a plurality of discrete elements and wherein the elements represent two levels of encoded information so that the content of one of the levels of encoded information is capable of being read by interrogation through the packaging of the replacement unit and/or interrogation at a greater distance from the interrogation means than the content of the other level of encoded information.

26. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the tag comprises a plurality of discrete elements which are arranged such that the relative positions of the elements represents information.

27. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein the information represented by the plurality of elements identifies the type of replaceable unit and wherein the operation of the master unit is modified in accordance with the type of replaceable unit which is or has been connected.

28. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the tag comprises:
- i) a first magnetic material having a low magnetic coercivity; and
 - ii) a second magnetic material having a medium or high magnetic coercivity and being capable of being permanently magnetized.
29. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein selected regions of the second magnetic material are permanently magnetized to form a magnetic pattern.
30. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein a recording head in contact with the second magnetic material is required in order to form the magnetic pattern thereon.
31. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the interrogation means further comprises a demagnetizing coil which serves, in use, to erase or modify the magnetic pattern.
32. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the tag further comprises a protective layer.
33. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the master unit comprises an electric toothbrush handle and the replaceable unit comprises a brush.

34. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the master unit comprises a printer and the replaceable unit comprises a printer cartridge.

35. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the modification of the operation of the apparatus does not comprise preventing the operation of the apparatus.

36. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the modification of the operation of the apparatus comprises a predetermined, sub-optimum default operating mode.

37. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the operation of the apparatus comprising the master unit and the replacement unit serves a medical application.

38. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 37, wherein the master unit comprises a medicine dispensing pump and the replacement unit comprises a medical infusion tube.

39. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 37, wherein the modification of the operation of the apparatus comprises suspending the operation of the apparatus.